

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
STATEHOOD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Saturday, March 6, 1982  
12:45 o'clock p.m.

Auditorium, 9th Floor  
PEPCO Building  
10th and E Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Presiding Officers:

Charles I. Cassell, President  
James W. Baldwin, First Vice President  
Janette Hoston Harris, Second Vice President

Also Present:

Dean Warner Lawson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I call the convention to order.  
May we have the second item on the agenda respected, a moment  
of silent prayer. [Pause]

Mr. Secretary, please call the roll.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Baldwin.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Barnes. [No response]  
Delegate Blount.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Bruning. [No response]

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We can hear a tape recorder or  
something which is creating a bit of disturbance. Would  
whoever that is please turn it off and let us have some peace  
and quiet now so that we can hear the roll call.

If there is anybody, Delegate Blount, in the hall,  
ask them to please come in.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Bruning. [No response]  
Delegate Cassell.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Clarke. [No response]  
Delegate Coates. [No response]

Delegate Cooper. Present.



Delegate Corn.

DELEGATE CORN: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Croft. [No response]

Delegate Eichhorn. [No response]

Delegate Feely.

DELEGATE FEELY: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Freeman.

DELEGATE FREEMAN: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Garner.

DELEGATE GARNER: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Graham.

DELEGATE GRAHAM: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Harris.

DELEGATE HARRIS: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Holmes.

DELEGATE HOLMES: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Jackson.

DELEGATE JACKSON: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Johnson.

DELEGATE JOHNSON: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Jones. [No response]

Delegate Jordan. [No response]

Delegate Kameny.

DELEGATE KAMENY: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Lockridge.

DELEGATE LOCKRIDGE: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Long.

DELEGATE LONG: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Love. [No response]

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Maguire.

DELEGATE MAGUIRE: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Marcus.

DELEGATE MARCUS: Good afternoon.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Charles Mason.

DELEGATE C. MASON: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Hilda Mason.

DELEGATE H. MASON: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Brian Moore.

DELEGATE B. MOORE: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Jerry Moore. [No  
response]

Delegate Talmadge Moore.

DELEGATE T. MOORE: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Nahikian.

DELEGATE NAHIKIAN: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Nixon. [No response]

Delegate Oulihan. [No response]

Delegate Paramore.

DELEGATE PARAMORE: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Robinson.

DELEGATE ROBINSON: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Rothschild.

DELEGATE ROTHSCCHILD: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Schrag.

DELEGATE SCHRAG: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Shelton.

DELEGATE SHELTON: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Simmons. [No response]

Delegate Street. [No response]

Delegate Terrell.

DELEGATE TERRELL: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Thomas.

DELEGATE THOMAS: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Warren.

DELEGATE WARREN: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Barnes. [No response]

Delegate Bruning. [No response]

Delegate Clarke.

DELEGATE CLARKE: Here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Coates. [No response]

Delegate Croft. [No response]

Delegate Eichhorn. [No response]

Delegate Jones. [No response]

Delegate Jordan. [No response]

Delegate Love. [No response]

Delegate Jerry Moore. [No response]

Delegate Nixon. [No response]

Delegate Oulihan. [No response]

Delegate Simmons.

DELEGATE SIMMONS: Present.

SECRETARY COOPER: Delegate Thomas.

DELEGATE THOMAS: Thomas, here.

SECRETARY COOPER: Thirty-three answered the roll.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: There are 33 people present this morning.

There is an error on the agenda here. The minutes have been left off. The minutes should be item number four. Announcements should be item number five; committee reports, six; unfinished business, seven; new business, eight, adjourn, nine.

DELEGATE MARCUS: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Marcus.

DELEGATE MARCUS: In accordance with Rule Number 6.1, isn't it necessary for the delegates to approve the calendar of the day? In addition, isn't it necessary for the secretary to read the numbers and the titles of any proposals which have been introduced on this day?

SECRETARY COOPER: Yes, and there have been none submitted.

DELEGATE MARCUS: I'd like to request that the chair prepare an agenda for the day which reflects Rule Number 6.1. [Pause for officers to confer]

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The next order of business is the reading of the minutes.

DELEGATE SHELTON: I'm sorry, sir, I didn't hear your complete statement.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The next order of business on the agenda is the reading of the minutes.

DELEGATE SHELTON: Thank you, sir.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the minutes with the corrections, if there be any.

SEVERAL DELEGATES: Second.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: It has been moved and seconded that the minutes be adopted with corrections. Any corrections

to the minutes?

DELEGATE MARCUS: Point of information. I never received an answer to my question.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Your question does not refer to this part of the calendar or rather this part of the agenda. If you look at the rules, you'll see that's further down. We haven't gotten to that yet, Delegate Marcus. Okay?

DELEGATE MARCUS: You had presented an agenda to the delegates.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I beg your pardon, sir?

DELEGATE MARCUS: You had presented an agenda to the delegates. I was thinking that perhaps we could the agenda proceed in accordance--

PRESIDENT CASSELL: There is still an appropriate part of the agenda to get to that, Delegate Marcus. Is that agreed?

DELEGATE MARCUS: All right, I will raise that when we get to that point.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Okay. Delegate Brian.

DELEGATE B. MOORE: I have a correction on the minutes of February 27th, item 2.1.0: "Substitute motion by Delegate B. Moore that all committees reconvene at an appropriate time in order to reelect chairs." So, the two

words "meet" is replaced by "reconvene," and "elect" is replaced by "reelect."

SECRETARY COOPER: Did you submit that at the time?

DELEGATE B. MOORE: I'm trying to remember. I think I did, yes. No, I didn't. Well, I will submit it now.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Moore, you are referring to 2.1.0?

DELEGATE B. MOORE: That's correct.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Would you repeat that, please.

DELEGATE B. MOORE: Yes. There are two words. One word in the first line is "meet." I would like to replace that with "reconvene." And in the second line, replace "elect" with "reelect." [Pause for officers to confer.]

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Is that a motion?

DELEGATE B. MOORE: Pardon me?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I just want to remind us that these minutes are not transcripts. They don't reflect the transcript. If you feel that they don't reflect the sense or the meaning, then please make a motion to make it correct.

Your motion is exactly what you said, to change the word "meet" to "convene"--



DELEGATE B. MOORE: That is correct.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: --and "elect" to "reelect."

Second to the motion?

DELEGATE KAMENY: Second.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Any discussion on that motion?

All those in favor of the change as stated by  
Delegate Moore, signify by saying, "Aye." [Response]

Those opposed? [Silence]

Abstain? [No abstentions]

The motion carries. That correction is to be made.

Delegate Moore?

DELEGATE B. MOORE: Yes. Is the standard procedure  
when you report the minutes that there is no--there is not  
much fuller explanation of each motion? The motions are  
stated but there is not much background. I know we have the  
transcripts. But it would seem that another sentence or two  
on each person's motion might communicate the meaning of a  
person's intent.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The idea is to make them in  
outline form for brief, easy-to-read, and make corrections.  
If you feel that the motion has lost the flavor or the  
intent, I think you should be specific. And we can deal  
with any particular issue, any particular motion.

DELEBATE B. MOORE: I'd like to recommend to the secretary that he might include a few more thoughts behind each person's motion because I think few delegates will refer to the transcripts because there's only one or two available probably, and its difficult to get to. I think this will be a quick way to get the spirit of the motion when reviewing our brief minutes.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: There is discussion of course on most motions. The idea here is to make it brief enough that you can read it, make certain that it reflects the sense of what happened. And I would suggest, as I said before, if you think something is lost in any one particular motion, to make a motion that we make it fuller, make it more representative. But I would hope that we can continue to have a very simple outline form, and we can refer to the transcript, right. Any other corrections to the minutes?

Hearing no further corrections, are you ready for the question? Delegate Bruning.

DELEGATE BRUNING: I move the adoption of the minutes.

DELEGATE CORN: Second.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: It has been moved and seconded that the minutes be adopted.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: It has already been moved.

DELEGATE KAMENY: As amended.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those in favor of accepting the minutes as corrected, signify by saying, "Aye."

[Response]

Those opposed? [Silence]

Abstain? [No abstentions]

The minutes are adopted.

The next item is a series of--hold on, just a minute--a series of announcements. As you all know, on last Wednesday, March 3rd, there was a press conference. And at that press conference the delegates, the members of the executive committee, and some of the committee chair people said to the public through the press that we had completed most of our organizational work, that we had elected officers, committee chairpersons, and we were now getting down to the business as of last Monday of writing a constitution. We indicated also that the target date is May 22nd for the completion of our constitution even though the 90 days expires on March 29th. We think that we got some pretty good publicity on that, and perhaps more people are aware of the fact that there is a constitutional convention underway and that the writing is going on, that there are committee

hearings and those committee hearings are open.

I'd like to say that we are very, very happy that we have finally filled two positions on our staff, and that is that of executive secretary and of research coordinator. We have had quite some difficulty in getting our resources, in getting our space, in getting the things that the various committees need, in getting our telephones, in getting supplies, in getting reproduction. We are now on the road to repairing all of those problems. I'd like to announce to you that the executive committee has engaged Mrs. Dorothy P. Ellington as the executive secretary to the Statehood Constitutional Convention. Mrs. Ellington is with us today. Mrs. Ellington is a very capable and very competent person with a very impressive history. I suppose the most outstanding one was the executive secretary of the Urban League for a period of many years. She will be on board with us as of Monday. And many of the problems that we have faced we hope will be resolved by then.

Mrs. Ellington, would you stand. [Mrs. Ellington rises to applause.]

Is there anything that you'd like to say to us before we move on?

MRS. ELLINGTON: No, except that we've got a

tremendous job to do in a very short time period. So, we're looking forward to working very hard with you and giving you support that you need.

DELEGATE CORN: Welcome on board.

MRS. ELLINGTON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I'm sure you'll be hearing from many of us on a very, very regular basis.

The second position that has been filled is that of the research coordinator. And that individual is not here because we just weren't able to locate him. The decision was made last night. And that is Mr. Bobby Austin. Mr. bobby Austin is our research coordinator--

DELEGATE HARRIS: Doctor.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Dr. Bobby Austin is our research coordinator, and I would expect that he will be with us and that we can introduce him in our committee meetings on Monday.

And I would like to announce again that the executive committee will be meeting on Monday at 12:00 noon and talking to the executive secretary and also the research coordinator.

Regarding the general counsel, the consensus of the executive committee is that we would do well to avail

ourselves of the services of an institution which has a broad spectrum of services available, one of the universities or one of the law schools from one of the universities. As you know, we have the services of two universities. One of them has a law school, Howard University. And of course we have the services in fact of three universities. And we are now in the facilities of the University of the District of Columbia, and they provided some training for us from their history department and their political science department. Georgetown Law School provided our first training session. We have been discussing with one of the law schools that has been involved with us the possibility of using their services. Those discussions have not been concluded. And, therefore, we cannot make a report to you. We are hoping that early next week we can have the services of a law school which will provide for us the general kinds of services that we will need, including the use of their law library and including the use of their law students, and that possibly this convention could even become a project thereof.

Delegate Kameny.

DELEGATE KAMENY: Just for information, which law school is that?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Howard University.



DELEGATE KAMENY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Okay. And you know we have with us the associate dean from Howard University over a period of many, many months.

DELEGATE SHELTON: Mr. Chair.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes.

DELEGATE SHELTON: Does this mean that you have revised the approved or proposed staffing pattern as proposed by the convention?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No, it does not.

DELEGATE SHELTON: What would be your interpretation then of what you are doing in--

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Regarding the general counsel?

DELEGATE SHELTON: Yes.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: What we had was a general counsel. There was no limitation on whether that could be one individual or ten individuals. We always hoped that it would involve the pro bono service of a variety of people, whomever we have, be it a law school or an individual. We hoped that that individual or that institution can pull into our service as much assistance at a minimum cost or no cost, if possible. So, we see the legal counsel, the general counsel, as either an institution providing that service or



one individual.

Yes, Delegate Marcus.

DELEGATE MARCUS: If Howard University does indeed take on the roll as general counsel to the convention, will there be a staff attorney available on site on a full-time basis?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We would make that one of the requirements.

DELEGATE MARCUS: Thank you.

Now, regarding the clerical staff--yes, Delegate Nahikian and Delegate Corn.

DELEGATE NAHIKIAN: Mr. President, if you announce that the executive committee has made a decision about our research coordinator or research director, will that research director choose among applicants for the research interns or research assistants?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No. That individual may be invited to participate in the selection being made by the executive committee.

DELEGATE NAHIKIAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Corn.

DELEGATE CORN: Back to general counsel. Does that mean that the committees that would like to have somebody

with them at all times can do so from the general counsel?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The general counsel would be in a position to provide legal counsel to us from time to time. There will not be legal persons other than the legal research associates, and we hope we'll have one each of those for each of the committees. There would not be general counsel for all of them, but the counsel would certainly be available to the committees hopefully on a regular basis.

DELEGATE CORN: If Howard U Law takes this, would there be one person like Dean Lawson in charge of everybody who works in that university on our constitution?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We will want at least one counsel person, one point person, with us at all times. That does not mean that that individual is sitting in an office in this building from 9:00 to 5:00. The counsel in a sense is on retainer and is available to us as we need him or her.

DELEGATE CORN: But does that mean that one person from Howard U Law School, like Dean Lawson, would be responsible to us as the person we could go to and say, "Well, you know, your assistant didn't show up" or whatever?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We haven't worked out the details. What we would like is to have the university provide for us assistance as we need. I don't know what

this one individual at all times is on call to every delegate. That might get to be a bit cumbersome. But we would have at least one person who is our contact with the law school at all times. There are things that we believe that we need that would reside in the law school itself, not necessarily in one person.

DELEGATE FEELY: Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes, Delegate Feely.

DELEGATE FEELY: Is it not possible to name a person as legal counsel and have the school also participate in that process?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Surely, that's possible.  
Surely.

Any other questions on the general counsel?  
Delegate Robinson.

DELEGATE ROBINSON: Accountability, Mr. Chairman. How would the convention extract accountability from the university? I'm supposing that there will not be a singular counsel who would be--well, I'm supposing that the counsel person would change from week to week, day to day. And I am concerned about the accountability.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We have had some extensive discussions on this in the executive committee. We feel that

what we're getting is a counsel, not an employee. If we were to engage an employee, we'd have to pay that individual on an hourly basis or on a contract basis, and we just don't have that kind of money. Lawyers get anywhere from \$75 up per hour. So, what we're getting is a counsel who will agree to provide for us exactly what we need, a counsel who also we think is mindful of the very historic nature of this. And the major benefit to any counsel would be to have his or her imprimatur on this activity. We'd have to have an agreement as to what the responsibility was. I doubt very seriously if we're having an individual who reports directly and who can be fired for cause unless the service that is being provided on a counsel basis is unsatisfactory. But since we can't pay for counsel on an hourly basis, we're not looking for an employee who reports to me or to the executive committee on an hourly basis. We're looking for a general counsel who makes a commitment to the constitutional convention to provide for them specific kinds of services within a specific framework and within a specific time frame. And of course that is for an honorarium in effect, although it would be on a contract basis.

Delegate Marcus, Delegate Nahikian.

DELEGATE MARCUS: May I ask that the details of that

framework or that agreement be circulated among the delegates? I understand that's the executive committee's priority to hire whomever the executive committee sees fit without ratification by the delegates; and I think we'd all appreciate having some idea of the scope of those responsibilities.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: No, we won't do that. But what we'll do is to allow you to continue to attend the executive committee meetings as all delegates are free to do and as many have done.

Nahikian.

DELEGATE NAHIKIAN: Mr. President, a point of information more than anything else. I would just like to say that I would compliment the executive committee for moving towards the direction of trying to engage the institution. I think that's a wise decision because it will save us money, and it gives us a variety.

Just in response to--I think it was Delegate Croft's comment. Any time you engage a major legal firm, you don't always engage the senior partner to do all your work. You engage the senior partner maybe to coordinate the work, but it's done by many people. And I don't think there's a problem in using an institution.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Okay. Clerical staff. One of

our major problems is getting clerical people to assist the ten committees that are functioning. We have two other committees also, rules and calendar committee and the style and drafting committee. And we have some ad hoc committees. We need also specific designated space for each of the committees to operate in. We need file cabinets for them to keep their records in. And we need somebody to keep the minutes of their meeting.

We have on board now four secretaries. Those four secretaries, as we have mentioned before, have come from the mayor. I think two of those are not going to be with us much longer. The mayor has indicated that three more are coming over on Monday. Now that we have an executive secretary, we're in a position to state to the mayor what our total needs are regarding clerical assistance, regarding supplies, regarding space, regarding equipment, regarding furniture. We don't have enough of any of that. We've had a coordinator. That has been Mr. Robert Young. And he has been trying to provide for us on a daily basis those things that are available. Of course he's not dealing directly with the mayor. He's dealing with Mr. Crop. And Mr. Crop is trying to find from the different agencies their best people. And, as you can understand, the agencies are not willing to give up their



best people. We now are in a position to thank the mayor for all the assistance that he has given us, to indicate to him what we need, and to ask him to provide our total needs, ten secretaries and whatever supplies and equipment we need. We have a Xerox machine that has been breaking down fairly regularly. It has a rather low capacity. We're going to ask the mayor for everything that we need, right? And give him an opportunity to tell us what he can provide. If he can't provide it all this week on a regular basis--you know, how much can he provide?--we'll have to make a decision then as to what is forthcoming and then look at our budget and find out what it is that we need that we're not going to get either from him or on a pro bono service from some institution that will give us people as employees, employees to us, people that we can control. If we don't have everything that we need, then we'll have to make further decisions about how we acquire or purchase additional services. But we can't say at this point. I hope by the end of next week we'll have our responses through our executive secretary regarding providing our total needs.

Delegate Mason, Delegate Moore, Delegate Terrell.

DELEGATE H. MASON: Delegate Mason at large.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to inquire how we could facilitate



using the money of the people--if they are not going to be accepted to help Howard staff or a committee.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I believe that our treasurer has been considering that, and I think that we have a recommendation from Theresa Jones which she will bring to us when she arrives at the convention. I think that has come up in an ad hoc committee that both of you serve on, and she has some recommendations. I don't know whether you're familiar with those, but I think it has been discussed. But I can't discuss it until she gets here.

DELEGATE H. MASON: Do you have any idea when we could get the wording of the recommendations?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Mason, I'm informed that Theresa Jones is out of town and that we cannot have that report until Monday. We would be glad to post a notice in room 909 regarding the response to that question.

DELEGATE H. MASON: May I say, Mr. President, that there are some of us who do not wish to draw our money out and put it in some kind of trust fund. There are some who do. But there are some council members and some other people who would like to leave it in with a clear policy decision that the money be used to help shore up committee work and whatever and we do not get into throwing money out in trying to

provide for spending on the applicants who were thrown out by us.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I assume that our treasurer is aware of that, and that would be incorporated in her report.

DELEGATE H. MASON: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I said I'm assuming that Delegate Jones is aware of that and that that would be a part of her report or she would certainly have taken that into account.

DELEGATE H. MASON: I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Moore.

DELEGATE T. MOORE: Talmadge Moore from Ward Five. And I'm concerned, Mr. President, that we don't have the personnel that we were supposed to have, the clerical staff and et cetera. We started last Monday making these historical records. And some of the committees have not had adequate personnel. So, I am recommending to you, in addition to the executive secretary, Mrs. Ellington, to contact the mayor personally. I have faith in the mayor. I believe if he knew the condition that we're in now, that he would expedite matters. I want to recommend that either someone from your executive committee or preferably you sit down and talk to

the mayor personally and tell him about what we're encountering.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I suspect that you're correct, that the mayor may be quite receptive to this request. And when I say we are going to contact him, what our executive secretary will be doing is--

DELEGATE T. MOORE: I want to make that a motion. But you indicated, sir--

DELEGATE CORN: I'll second that.

DELEGATE T. MOORE: --that that was going to be Friday, I believe, about a week for Mrs. Ellington to get with the mayor. And that would throw us another week behind. So, I want to put that in the form of a motion.

DELEGATE CORN: Second.

DELEGATE T. MOORE: To contact the mayor personally.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Before you make the motion, let me give you just a response to your question; and if a motion is necessary, you can make it. What I was saying is that we need to be able to put in some constructive form to the mayor exactly what it is that we need. We have committees now that are organized and are functioning. We really need to have her speak to those committees, right? In other words, there may be equipment and supplies,

reproduction equipment, furniture and so forth that we will want to ask him for. He knows that we want at least one secretary per committee, right? I don't think it will take her a week really to assess what it is we need. But when we go to him, we want to ask him for everything that we need for the balance of the convention. I commit you to personally speak to the mayor along with the executive secretary, and we want to be able to lay out for him what it is we need. And we would like for him to indicate what he needs. If a motion, you feel, is needed, then you can certainly make it. But I'll tell you that's what we'll do anyway.

Delegate Terrell.

DELEGATE TERRELL: Mr. Moore, are you putting that in the form of a motion?

DELEGATE T. MOORE: Yes, I want that in the form of a motion. I so move.

SEVERAL DELEGATES: Second.

SECRETARY COOPER: You so move what?

DELEGATE T. MOORE: We so move that a member of the executive committee or the president, along with Mrs. Ellington, who is the new executive secretary, contact the mayor and sit down with him personally to let him know what the conditions are here as far as the support elements are

concerned.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Second?

SEVERAL DELEGATES: Second.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: It has been moved and seconded that the president contact the mayor, sit down with him personally, and apprise him of our needs and ask him to fulfill all of them.

DELEGATE T. MOORE: Along with the executive secretary.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes. Any discussion on that motion? Delegate Robinson.

DELEGATE ROBINSON: Samuel Robinson, Ward Five. Not to contradict my fellow delegate from Ward Five, but the mayor has a representative here and he is in this hall on a regular basis. In fact, I'd dare say he is here daily. And it would seem to me that our conditions are well known. And, lastly, I'm sure that the president in his wisdom will take the necessary steps to ensure that what we need will be forthcoming. Also, that with the addition of our new executive secretary, Georgia P. Ellington, that a complete assessment--and I believe a final and forceful assessment--will be made and presented.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Terrell.

DELEGATE TERRELL: Only speaking to that point, the only point that I want to make is that where we are in terms of time--and that's one matter I think we're all clear on. We have a short period of time. We need a lot of things done. The time is passing and we are frustrated, I know--some of the members of my committee--in terms of getting the things that we really need done. And I'm aware of the fact that Mr. Young is here and that he's aware of what's going on. But I really think that something needs to be done in order to get the things that we need so that we can work in an environment that's really conducive to the type of work that we have to do. So, because of that, I am speaking in support of Mr. Moore's motion.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I might say that the chair has no problem with a motion suggesting that he do what he's going to do anyway. I mean, I'd like to move on. There seems to be no controversy. Could we vote on this?

DELEGATE KAMENY: Is there a motion on the floor?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes.

DELEGATE KAMENY: I call the question.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Those in favor of calling the question, signify by saying, "Aye." [Response]

Opposed? [Silence]



Abstained? [No abstentions]

All those in favor of the motion as indicated by Delegate Moore that the president move forthwith, along with the executive secretary, to state personally to the mayor our needs and get a response, signify by saying, "Aye."

[Response]

Those opposed? [Silence]

Abstained? [No abstentions]

Motion carries.

Delegate Blount?

DELEGATE BLOUNT: I supported the previous motion that was passed. But in the meantime I would like to ask the chairman what plans have been made for next week. In other words, will the committee chairmen still have to sort of find someone to take their minutes and so forth? Or could we have those staff persons who are here, those secretaries who are here or clerical persons who are here--if we have five, it seems we could divide them up to attend each of the committee meetings to take the minutes.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We have a total of four secretaries next week. Some are leaving on rotation. One of those secretaries has been working--the executive committee has met every night last week, and there's a good chance of their



meeting--one of them has been meeting with them. So, we'll have three secretaries available next week. Those are the people that the mayor has already given us--until such time as we get more.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Okay, my point is this, Mr. Chairman. It would seem to me that since we're sort of pressed for staff, perhaps even those who are higher up in the organization would help. In other words, the executive secretary could maybe take a committee, somebody else, you know; whoever is available could take a committee to help with the minutes.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: You're suggesting that we put some of these officers to work, have the first and second vice president and the secretary and the treasurer take--

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Well, they're already part of committees. But, I mean, my point is: Could we have some support personnel for our committee meetings next week?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I would just like to say that the first and second vice presidents have a responsibility which, now that we have some cohesion with our executive secretary, have the responsibility to coordinate the work of half of these committees. Each has half of them. And I'm sure that they're going to be busy with that.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Not to carry on a dialogue, Mr. Chairman, but I wasn't speaking of the officers. I'm speaking of the paid staff. Other than the secretaries, you have the executive secretary which has just been hired. You have a research somebody who has just been hired. Could they all be pressed into service until we get the personnel that we really need?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We have Judy Wells as a temporary executive secretary and who could act as a secretary. I don't know about Mr. Young. Is Mr. Young here? [No response]

Does anybody know whether Mr. Young is capable of functioning as a secretary?

DELEGATE HARRIS: No, he's an executive. He wouldn't do that.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: All right, I sense there's some resistance to that. I understand the problem. Let us see if, while we're trying to get from the mayor some permanent people, if we can't indicate that next week we need at least five people, each of whom could serve two committees. We'll take that as a responsibility too. But I understand you're saying that if there are people who don't work here at night, we could use some of the, right? That's something to look

into. Who's next?

DELEGATE TERRELL: Mr. President, I believe I was to be recognized after Delegate Moore.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: In rotation. You have already spoken on the issue.

DELEGATE TERRELL: No, I was speaking to his motion. But I was down to speak next about the issue of--

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The floor is yours. I remember.

DELEGATE TERRELL: Thank you. This is a minute matter, but it's very crucial in terms of what we've got to do as far as the committee work is concerned. Again I understand that everyone has time constraints and so forth. But one of the problems we're having is the Xerox machine. I don't want to spend time arguing over that, but I would wish that this committee would give us a set schedule as to when that Xerox machine--even though we know it's going to break down from time to time--but when it's working, when we can come in and expect to use it so that we will not be running in here at the last minute, those of us with jobs, and thrown in complete disarray because we don't know what is happening with that Xerox machine.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Admittedly we have a problem with that machine. The machine seems to be down more than

it is up. And we cannot rely on it. It appears to us that that machine needs to be replaced. That will be another responsibility of the executive secretary. First of all, it doesn't collate. It moves slowly. And then it can only work for an hour or so without overheating and cutting down. It just isn't adequate. If necessary, we'll have to lease one out of our own funds. That is a very, very significant and important aspect of our functioning.

DELEGATE TERRELL: But, Mr. President, still in terms of its functioning, we understand that. I'm talking about a schedule so that when it is working we will know when we can use that machine and when we cannot use it--like, for example, we needed it today and I understand we cannot use it because of the meeting. While the meeting is in progress, we cannot use that machine. I think we need to be aware of certain conditions like that so that we can plan and operate around them.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Harris.

DELEGATE HARRIS: I would imagine until we really get our equipment and begin to move in full force, we need to operate as we did with our temporary committees. During our temporary committees we did not have--pre-convention committees--we did not have a Xerox machine. We did not have

secretaries. And we really--it was hard, okay. And a lot of people don't work without those kind of equipment. But at least you have to find other routes until we can get another one. The machine has not worked for me at all, period.

DELEGATE TERRELL: Madam Vice President, that's not my concern. Of course we can go to other machines. What I'm saying is that when we arrive at this place, we need a schedule as to when we can and cannot use that machine. That's all I'm asking.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Baldwin.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Mr. President, the first and second vice president have oversight responsibility for those committees. And we will meet. And Monday you will get such a memo or memorandum or whatever regarding all the problems regarding committees and whether you get supplies and those kind of things. I think we should move on because those are things the first and second vice president can do.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: I am mindful of what you're saying, yes. Delegate Corn, and then we're going to move on with the agenda.

DELEGATE CORN: Yes, I have a question. Why are the committee meeting rooms locked up? Can they not be left

unlocked? That's my first question. I have a few things to ask.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: That's the same thing. We'll deal with that.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes. Let me have your second question.

DELEGATE CORN: The second question is, Would it not be a good idea in the front hallway to have some sort of a book or something so that when people who are not delegates come in--while we would like everybody possible to come--to sign in so that later we can say this is how many different people came during the 90-day period and observed our process?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Baldwin.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: I took the response to it earlier. Those are matters that the first and second vice president have responsibility for. And, as I mentioned, we will post those kinds of things and answer all of your questions. Plus we meet with our committees. She has five or six. I have six. And those kind of things will be dealt with in that particular framework rather than at the convention.

DELEGATE CORN: One more question, if I might. One



Last question.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes.

DELEGATE CORN: You have been talking in terms of what the first and second vice president can and will do for their five committees each. But then there are two other committees.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: We have six committees. We have six each.

DELEGATE CORN: You each have six each.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Yes, we have, as I've stated-- not five, six.

DELEGATE CORN: All right.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Thomas.

DELEGATE THOMAS: What are the duties of the third vice president?

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Thomas.

DELEGATE THOMAS: Yes.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: At the time that the rules were made and approved, there was not a third vice president. We are now having regular meetings with the executive committee. That issue was raised once before. One of the things we'll do is to recommend--I can always delegate authority-- but to recommend regular responsibilities for the third vice

president.

DELEGATE CORN: May I point out in the rules it does not say that the first and second vice president will have oversight over the rules and calendar, and style and drafting.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Yes, it does.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Over half the standing committees; and those are--even though they are not substantive committees, they are standing committees.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Delegate Corn, I base that on instruction and direction that the president has given us. So, we really would like to move on. We said we have six. We do in fact have six.

DELEGATE CORN: All right.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: We are now into our committee reports. Delegate Baldwin, Delegate Marcus, Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Mr. President, I move that we adopt the calendar of the day with the minor corrections, that item five be in fact approval of the calendar of the day. Item six then becomes committee reports. Item seven, unfinished business. Item eight, new business. Item nine, adjourn.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: It has been moved and seconded

that we adopt a calendar of the day as indicated by Delegate Baldwin. Is there discussion? Delegate Marcus.

DELEGATE MARCUS: Does that include--I didn't hear the entire motion, but did you include the number and title of proposals which may have been introduced by the secretary? And where would that fall?

DELEGATE BALDWIN: I'm sorry, I didn't get your question.

DELEGATE MARCUS: One of the pieces that was missing from the agenda distributed was an announcement of the numbers and titles of proposals introduced by the secretary. Is that included in your motion and, if so, where?

DELEGATE BALDWIN: I'm sure you understand an order of business would include--in other words, our rule speaks to 13 specific items.

DELEGATE MARCUS: Right.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: If at any given time we only have six items to discuss, then you wouldn't list all 13 on your agenda. So, items 12 and 13 and probably 10 are not items today because we don't have any business under those items. So, why put 12 and 13--why speak to special orders and general orders when in fact they are not in?

DELEGATE MARCUS: I didn't ask about those. I

asked about numbers and titles and proposals which may have been submitted to the secretary.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: There are no proposals submitted to the secretary. Therefore, we did not enter that as an agenda item. The agenda is prepared by the executive committee of which the secretary is a member. And we asked the secretary: Have you received any proposals? The secretary said, "No." Therefore, that would not be an agenda item, Delegate Marcus, until we in fact have some proposals to put on the agenda.

DELEGATE MARCUS: Mr. President...

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Marcus, why don't you make it clear to us what it is that you're getting at? I think he has responded to your question.

DELEGATE MARCUS: I'm trying to do that actually. What I'm trying to do is say that in fact we have our rules, provisions, for the secretary to announce the number and titles of any proposals introduced. The secretary is responsive to the body, not to the executive committee. Therefore, the secretary should be permitted the space on the agenda today to in fact announce that there are no numbers or proposals introduced. I would like to make sure that information circulates among the body rather than just executive

committee. That is the point I am trying to reach.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Thank you, Delegate Marcus.

DELEGATE MARCUS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Inasmuch as we all know now that there are no proposals, I don't think we need to go through the formality of making that announcement. May we move to the next item on the agenda?

DELEGATE CORN: I call the previous question.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Baldwin's motion is on the floor, yes. All in favor of moving the agenda--

DELEGATE MARCUS: Point of order. There has not been two people speaking in favor and two against. And I believe one of the delegates in the back row had something to say to the motion.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Marcus, are you speaking for somebody whose hand is not raised?

DELEGATE MARCUS: I was pointing it to the chair's attention that in fact the chair was not abiding by the rules voted by the convention.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: The chair rules that Delegate Marcus is out of order.

DELEGATE MARCUS: You always do.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Are you ready for the question

on Delegate Baldwin's motion? Are you ready for the question? Those in favor of Delegate Baldwin's motion signify by saying, "Aye." [Response]

Those opposed, "No." [Response]

Abstentions? [One abstention]

The motion carries.

Regarding the committee reports, there were some changes in the committee structure since our last meeting. I'd like to have reports on the current status, the membership and the chairs of all committees, wherever there were changes.

Regarding the committee reports, let me call on Delegate Baldwin for those committees over which he has oversight view. Delegate Baldwin.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Mr. President, the committees that I have oversight view for are as follows: preamble and rights; judiciary; tax and finance; health, housing and social services; suffrage, apportionment, et cetera. The chairperson for preamble and rights is Delegate Moore; judiciary, Delegate Blount; tax and finance, Delegate Coates; health, housing and social services, Delegate Paramore; suffrage, postal initiative, and et cetera, Delegate Johnson. All of the committee chairpersons who are present--we will deal with



those who are absent. Mr. Moore, preamble and rights, is absent. His committee has met twice during the past week, and we are well on our way. We are in the background information type of thing.

Delegate Kameny, do you want to speak?

DELEGATE KAMENY: The vice chair of the committee on preamble and rights is here and can make a report.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Oh, good, right. Thank you. Thank you. We do in that particular committee have a vice chairperson, Delegate Mason from Ward Four.

Delegate Mason, will you give the report on the preamble and rights.

DELEGATE C. MASON: The committee on the preamble and the bill of rights had a meeting at the regular time. A subcommittee of four members has been designated to work specifically on the preamble, and that subcommittee is expected to make a report to the full committee at the next meeting on Monday. We have also spent considerable time and effort on assembling materials that we need, including the constitutions or the pertinent parts of them from the 50 states. We have already assembled the majority of these and are in the process of Xeroxing the rest, so that each member of the committee will have for himself or herself the information as to what

other states have done in this regard. I guess I can simply say that the committee reports substantial progress.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Thank you, Delegate Mason.

DELEGATE PARAMORE: Point of information.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Do you have a question for Delegate Mason?

DELEGATE PARAMORE: Yes, a point of information. Did I understand that Delegate Mason said that they're in the process of Xeroxing his materials now?

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Yes, we are. In fact, we have Xeroxed some material in that particular committee.

DELEGATE PARAMORE: Right now?

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Right now.

DELEGATE PARAMORE: Well, we asked to get some stuff Xeroxed right now.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: We did not get it through the convention, no, no.

DELEGATE PARAMORE: Oh.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: We did not get it through the convention. Okay, any questions regarding what you've heard from the preamble and rights committee? Moore.

DELEGATE B. MOORE: Could each committee chairman repeat the members of their delegation when they give their

report?

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Okay. Each of you have a copy of it. And I think, so we can move on, unless there are some changes, each chairperson or vice chairperson in the case will state. So, we'll not go through saying who's on the committees. All of us have it in front of us. We were given it last Saturday. And unless there are some changes, I don't think we need to read who is on the committees.

DELEGATE CORN: Point of order. A lot of us cannot hear when a committee chairperson is giving a report. Could I request the chair ask each committee chairperson to come to the front so that we can all hear them, please?

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Okay.

DELEGATE CORN: I missed that entire report.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: The next committee is the judiciary, Delegate Blount from Ward Seven. Delegate Blount, if you would share with the body, you know, your election and whether or not you do in fact have any officers above and beyond the chair because some do and some don't. It isn't anything to debate or question, but just to say so that they'll know.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: The judiciary committee has provided all the delegates with minutes of each of its

meetings. If you have not gotten the minutes, they should be up here at the front. We of course had our election. I was elected chairman. Since that time we have also had an election for vice chairperson, of which Delegate Jan Eichhorn was elected. The areas that we have been concentrating on are how the judges will be selected, the confirmation of judges, removal, tenure, salary, protections, and also the tier system, whether we're going to have a three-level system or a two-level court system. And we have also planned for committee briefings. We are going to have Thomas Duckenfield, who's president of the Washington Bar Association and chief clerk of D.C. Superior Court, to brief our committee on Monday, March 8th at 7:00 o'clock p.m.; we ask that all of you who can be present or can urge other citizens to be present to be present. The topics will be the judicial system in D.C. as it stands now.

DELEGATE HARRIS: Delegate Blount, Mr. Duckenfield's name is spelled D-u-c-k.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: It's spelled D-u-c-k for Thomas Duckenfield.

DELEGATE HARRIS: The "c" has been left out.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Did somebody have a question?

DELEGATE ROTHSCHILD: Yes. When is that meeting?

DELEGATE BLOUNT: On Monday, March 8th at 7:00 o'clock p.m. We usually meet in room 905. But I don't know.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: It varies. It's always close to that.

DELEGATE GRAHAM: I'd like to ask a question.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Yes.

DELEGATE GRAHAM: When you talk about removal, that's the same as recall, isn't it?

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Yes.

DELEGATE GRAHAM: Okay.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Also we have had the expertise of two lawyers on our committee, Delegate Clarke and Delegate Oulahan, who have provided us with some very good information on the court systems and other jurisdictions and background information on D.C. Yes.

DELEGATE SHELTON: I know this is in the earlier consideration. We talked about the use of Howard University Law School. I did not hear in your earlier inputs any reference to including them in on your consultation.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: We are planning to have their input. But in the beginning we felt that we were just getting our committee background. We didn't want too many

people at one particular session. For example, we have here--

DELEGATE SHELTON: Well, you have a rather biased background.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: At this point we have another committee briefing scheduled for Monday, March 15th, at which time we will have ONeal Smalls, who is an instructor at American University. And I again point out that what we are getting is just background information at the present. Yes.

DELEGATE SHELTON: Mr. Chair, I'd like to indicate-- you know, I want to commend your committee on its efforts. But I would like to indicate that the bar--is this the D.C. Bar or which bar is this?

DELEGATE EICHORN: Washington Bar.

DELEGATE HARRIS: May I speak to that, Mr. Blount, as a member of that committee? I'd like to speak to that. Mr. Duckenfield is the President of the Washington Bar Association; it's not the D.C. Bar. And the reason he was selected was because Mr. Duckenfield is the Clerk of the Superior Court. He is involved in writing and amending the laws that are now on the books. He understands them. He works with them every day, the whole system. And this is why



he was selected.

DELEGATE SHELTON: This is not the bar that voted that no more money be used for community--

DELEGATE HARRIS: You must be talking about the D.C. Bar, I think. I think that's what you're talking about.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: The D.C. and Washington Bar, he is a member of both bars.

DELEGATE HARRIS: That's a different one.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: We have also had committee members who have helped us a great deal. Delegate Eichhorn, for example, has consented to draft a letter to invite Judge Moultrie, Judge Carl Moultrie, Chief Appellate Judge, and Judge Luke Moore for briefings possibly on March 10th or 17th. So, after that we are planning to begin to shape up a draft document by March 30th along the lines of the local government. And then we would have the public and organizations to testify during April on the draft proposal. And then of course after that, we will present it to the convention.

DELEGATE CORN: I would like to ask one question first, and then I'd like to make a suggestion. Could you please explain to me what is the difference between the Washington Bar and the D.C. Bar?

DELEGATE BLOUNT: I beg your pardon?

DELEGATE CORN: What is the difference between the Washington Bar and the D.C. Bar?

DELEGATE HARRIS: Ask Mr. Oulahan. He is a member of both, I think.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Oh, is Delegate Oulahan here?

DELEGATE OULAHAN: That's right.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: We have a question. Would you repeat your question?

DELEGATE CORN: What's the difference between the Washington Bar and the D.C. Bar?

DELEGATE OULAHAN: I'm sorry, my hearing is a little--

DELEGATE CORN: What is the difference between the D.C. Bar, the Washington Bar, and the Unified Bar?

DELEGATE KAMENY: Point of order.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Point of order.

DELEGATE KAMENY: I move that Delegate Oulahan and Corn convene in private to fill in Delegate Corn's information and we go on with the business of the convention. Thank you.

A DELEGATE: Second the motion.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Mr. Chairman, I would

respectfully ask that you would allow Delegate Oulahan to answer that question. It wouldn't take much time. I think it's an important question.

DELEGATE EICHHORN: I can answer it. Two are volunteer and one is required.

DELEGATE CORN: Which is the required?

DELEGATE EICHHORN: The D.C. Unified Bar is required membership. The others are voluntary organizations.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: There's a motion on the floor. Delegate Kameny, would you permit a response to this one question?

DELEGATE KAMENY: Fine, go ahead if it's free.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Yes. Remember now that we are receiving a report and if there are some brief questions, fine. But we don't want to make this a long drawn-out thing.

DELEGATE OULAHAN: The D.C. Bar is the Unified Bar established several years ago. Any person who practices law in the District of Columbia before a D.C. court must be a member. The Bar Association of the District of Columbia is a voluntary bar which was established a hundred years ago. There's the Federal Bar Association, which is largely composed of former and ex-government officials. The Washington Bar is the District of Columbia branch of the National Bar Association

which has been the principal minority bar association in the United States.

DELEGATE HARRIS: Minority or black? I don't know. What does minority mean? You mean black?

DELEGATE OULAHAN: I don't want to characterize it because I don't know. But the National Bar Association is the national bar for minorities in the United States up to the present time. That is changing, I think. But if I had said five years ago, that would have been considered black.

SEVERAL DELEGATES: Black.

DELEGATE OULAHAN: The Washington Bar is, as I understand it, the local bar for the National Bar Association. And I think the dean at Howard was president of the National Bar Association at one time.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: Does that answer your question?

DELEGATE CORN: Yes. And you're saying that you pick lawyers or judges from the Washington Bar. Why didn't you take the D.C. Bar--

DELEGATE EICHHORN: He's the clerk of the court.

DELEGATE HARRIS: Clerk of the court, not the bar.

DELEGATE EICHHORN: He's the clerk of the court; that's why he was picked.

DELEGATE CORN: Okay, I see.

PRESIDENT CASSELL: Delegate Blount, are you finished?

DELEGATE CORN: Excuse me. I have not finished. Do you want to have other judges speak, for instance, like Judge Barrington Parker or anybody like that speak to your group?

A DELEGATE: In time. This is just the beginning.

DELEGATE BLOUNT: We'll be happy to have your inputs.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: As we move along, if you have suggestions to any particular committee, please put it in writing and direct that to the chairman of that particular committee. The next committee is the tax and finance committee. Delegate Coates is the chairman of that particular committee. He is absent. So, I'll ask anyone who is present who is a member of that particular committee, if you want to bring us up to date. I do note that you did not meet Wednesday because you didn't get a quorum. Therefore, you met Monday and you elected Coates as the chairperson. If there is anyone who is going to elaborate or add to what you did Monday, with the exception of electing officers, I will entertain that. If not, we will move on to another committee. Delegate Barnes, Ward Seven, who is a member of

that particular committee.

DELEGATE BARNES: We only met once last week, as the first vice president has said. We discussed how we were going to proceed. And our conclusion was that we were to gather--and anyone on the committee correct me if I am wrong--to gather the names of people--I'm sorry. We were to contact specific people who could help us in the job of writing that section of the constitution. And each of us chose to contact at least one person. Since we didn't have a meeting on Wednesday, we don't really know how far we've gone with it. But that was the conclusion of the meeting.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Thank you, Mr. Barnes.

The next committee is the health, housing and social services, Delegate Paramore from Ward Eight. Delegate Paramore, if you'll handle your presentation as follows, if there were additional officers elected at your meeting, state who they were. And then, secondly, give us a summary, brief summary, of the substantive kind of things that have happened during those two meetings.

DELEGATE PARAMORE: Yes. First of all, we just have the chairperson. We don't have any other officers. I will pass out what we're doing thus far. We've had three meetings. The rest of those are being run off right now.



That's why I had some concern about the Xerox machine. So far, our first meeting was an organizational meeting. And at that meeting we decided to define our functions as a committee, what we're supposed to do, set our priorities, decide what the issues are, and then attack those and assign tasks.

At our second meeting we were to bring a comparative research analysis of several state constitutions. Our third meeting, the way we did it, we had a discussion of international--several international constitutions and how they can be compared to state constitutions. And we also decided that it was necessary for us to study the D.C. Codes. We also decided--for housing. We also decided that it was necessary for us to do a research of several state charters.

Our task for our next meeting will be to continue a discussion of all the other meetings, what we had done, to really get into some more detailed work and also to define the population which we will be concerned about and to also deal with guaranteed rights of that particular population. We are also going to set priorities as far as certain things that we are a little weak on. Those particular issues we will bring in resource persons to help us with that, and also research some more material to help us with that. And we welcome any of you to come in and give us suggestions at our

committee. And I'd like to say that I have one of the best committees, and we are working very well together. And I am proud to be a part of that committee. Thank you. [Applause]

DELEGATE BALDWIN: The next committee is suffrage, apportionment, initiatives, referendum and et cetera, Delegate Johnson from Ward Seven. And, Delegate Johnson, if you'd follow the same format.

DELEGATE JOHNSON: Fellow delegates, the suffrage committee has held three meetings. I was elected the chair. Delegate Brian Moore, Ward Two, was elected the vice chair. And Delegate Chestie Graham, Ward Six, was elected secretary. Other committee members are Delegate Bruning, Ward One; Delegate Garner, Ward Three; Delegate Mason, Ward Four; Delegate Thomas, Ward Five; and Delegate Jones from Ward Eight.

The objective of our committee is to formulate formal proposals for the new constitution as they relate to the following areas: number one, suffrage; number two, apportionment; number three, initiatives, referendum and recall; and, number four, amendments and revisions.

At the present time we are expanding our knowledge base by the study of the Federal Constitution, the model state constitutions, and the D.C. Home Rule Charter. In addition,

each member will have reviewed by next Tuesday selected other constitutions on these topics. We plan to further expand our knowledge by inviting experts in to speak with us. Delegate Thomas is drafting a letter to be sent to guests that we plan to invite to share with us. As we develop our ideas, we will be noting those other convention committees-- the other convention committees that we will have to coordinate our proposals with. For example, we anticipate already that we will have to--or it will be advisable to have a meeting with the legislative committee, for an example.

Our target date for having draft proposals ready is March 25th. This will give us time to get our proposals out to those that are to be invited for the public hearings that are tentatively scheduled for April 6, 8, 13, and 15.

The committee has also discussed its needs, and these needs have been transmitted to the coordinator of our committee, First Vice Chair, Delegate Baldwin. The committee is also concerned about the following: public notice of committee meetings, the recording of business and discussion at committee meetings for the purposes of our historical record, more information on public hearings that will be held. We're concerned about our overall convention schedule,

the overall draft of the constitution--that is, will we be addressing specific items or are we going to make our proposals in more of a generalized statement? Are we going to, generally speaking, maintain the status quo, or are we going to create something absolutely new? These are general questions that our committee has posed that we would feel are either going to be addressed in conjunction with Mr. Delegate Baldwin or general discussion amongst the convention delegates. That concludes my report.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Thank you, Delegate Johnson.  
Mr. Thomas.

DELEGATE THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, I had something I would like to add to that. I was in a conversation at the last meeting with the executive secretary of the D.C. Committee on the Hill, and they are very interested in the project that we are going through and would like to help us in any way they can. And he gave me--his name is John Davis. He's in Room 1310. His phone number is 225-4457. And they are looking to talk to us; they are in favor of what we are going through.

DELEGATE BALDWIN: Thank you.

DELEGATE JOHNSON: We would also like to ask that any of the delegates that have names to suggest to us of